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# McFarlane Denies Illegal Ties to Contras

By JONATHAN FUERBRINGER

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 5 — President Reagan's national security adviser told the leaders of the Senate intelligence committee today that no one on the National Security Council had violated the law by assisting anti-Government rebels in Nicaragua.

But the chairman and deputy chairman of the committee said they still had serious concerns about the council's involvement and were not fully satisfied with the Administration explanation. The two Senators would not say, however, that the Administration had violated the law.

The chairman, Senator Dave Durenberger, Republican of Minnesota, said he saw no need now for hearings on the matter. The chairman of the House intelligence committee has scheduled hearings to begin Sept. 17.

Senator Durenberger and Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Democrat of Vermont and the deputy chairman of the Senate committee, both said Robert C. McFarlane, the national security adviser, had agreed with them that any effort to solicit or help raise private funds for the Nicaraguan rebels would violate the so-called Boland amendment, which prohibited such activity.

## 'You Can't Be Satisfied'

"So we came away from the meeting feeling that from Bud McFarlane we're getting what he believes to be the situation with regard to his staff," Mr. Durenberger said. "Are we satisfied that this sort of concludes the matter and that no one was in any way involved in directing the effort? No, you can't be satisfied.

"You can be satisfied with Bud McFarlane telling you the truth as he perceives it," he added. "But you can't be satisfied that you know all the factors."

Administration officials have acknowledged that a ranking member of the National Security Council, Lieut. Col. Oliver L. North, helped raise private funds for the rebels and had been involved in some rebel activities during the time the Boland amendment was in effect.

An Administration official who is familiar with Colonel North's activities said in a recent interview that the colonel had never on his own solicited money for the rebels. But when people asked him about helping them, as happened often, he would tell them where they might want to go and with whom they should talk. Another official said Colonel North had made many speeches and given briefings on the rebels and would, when asked, tell people how they could help them.

When asked in a separate interview about an official's giving speeches and offering advice on how to help the rebels when asked, Mr. Durenberger said that if this was a "pattern" it would be a solicitation and would violate the law. "I would be really bothered by that," he said.

But the committee chairman said that in the hourlong meeting with Mr. McFarlane, the security adviser did not give the impression that Colonel North had followed such a pattern.

"An isolated phone call here and there," Mr. Durenberger said, "that's the sort of impression I got from McFarlane that was going on."

Then he added, referring to Colonel North and his speeches, "I didn't get the sense that he told McFarlane that's what he was doing."

"I'm satisfied that Mr. McFarlane told us what he had been told," Mr. Leahy said. "I am also satisfied that if the law has been broken either in spirit or in fact, it will come out."

The chairman of the House intelligence committee, Representative Lee H. Hamilton, Democrat of Indiana, said Wednesday that Colonel North might have broken the law because the expenditure of funds for his travels on behalf of the rebels would violate the Boland amendment's prohibition on the expenditure of funds by an intelligence agency "supporting, directly or indirectly, military or paramilitary operations" of the rebels in Nicaragua.

Since the first reports of Colonel North's activities, the President and senior Administration officials have said that Colonel North neither broke the law nor violated the spirit of the law.

The Boland amendment, which was

approved last fall, was effective for fiscal year 1985, which ends Sept. 30. There is some doubt if it is still in effect because Congress has approved and the President has signed a bill for \$27 million of nonmilitary aid to the rebels.